



**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service, Southern Region  
4931 Broad River Road Columbia, SC 29212**

**Contact: Anne Kiser (803) 637-5396**

---

**August 4, 2008** (FMS 0809)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

### **Forest Service Youth Conservation Corps a Huge Success on Long Cane Ranger District**

(Edgefield, SC) Although four high school students from Edgefield and Johnston have already left the Long Cane Ranger District, their efforts this summer will not soon be forgotten. The students, Julia Miller, Alex Cheatham, Elizabeth Holmes and Drake Winn, worked on the district as part of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program which works to introduce young Americans to conservation opportunities and educational and team-building skills across the country.

"These students came to our district with an amazingly high level of energy and enthusiasm," said Long Cane District Ranger Anne Kiser. "It's refreshing to see these young adults take such a strong interest in conservation and accomplish such a remarkable amount of high visibility work in such a short period of time."

The crew was supervised by Forester Trainee Earlene Bracy.

"I was so impressed with their enthusiasm, curiosity and work ethic. They showed up on time every day and put in a hard day's work each and every day," said Bracy.

-more-

*The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*

## 2-2-2-2

### **Forest Service Youth Conservation Corps a Huge Success on Long Cane Ranger District**

The YCCs worked on numerous projects across the district including:

- Clearing and blazing 3.5 miles of Modoc Trail;
- Brushing six miles, refreshing painted trail blazes and closing a rerouted section on the Long Cane Horse Trail;
- Refurbishing several fire prevention and recreation area signs;
- Cleaning and mowing at Fury Ferry's Landing;
- Installing a trail counter on Forks Mountain Bike Trail;
- Helping to fill seven dumpsters with debris from the Edgefield Workcenter;
- Assisting with a Wheelin' Sportsmen event at National Wild Turkey Federation Headquarters; and
- Assisting with a 4-H youth event at Lick Fork Lake.

"We made sure the YCCs were exposed to all facets of national forest management, including wildlife management, timber management and recreation. Some of the students are already planning a career in the outdoors. Alex is considering a career as a land surveyor and Julia wants to be a wildlife biologist. Drake will certainly be working in natural resources," said Kiser.

"It was a great experience for all of us" said Bracy. "The national forest got 'spiffed up' by their hard work, and we hope we may have taught these young people the value of working outdoors and maybe even working for the Forest Service. I definitely know they'd be welcome on the Long Cane Ranger District."

-more-

*The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*

3-3-3-3

### Forest Service Youth Conservation Corps a Huge Success on Long Cane Ranger District



This year's YCCs on the Long Cane Ranger District are (left to right) Julia Miller, Alex Cheatham, Elizabeth Holmes, Drake Winn. With them is Crew Supervisor Earlene Bracy (forester trainee and permanent employee of the Long Cane Ranger District).

Please contact Anne Kiser for an electronic version of this image.

For more information on the Long Cane Ranger District and the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, visit the forests' Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms>.

#####

*The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*